

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Harlowton FFTP Upgrade
Proposed Implementation Date:	Summer 2018
Proponent:	Triangle Communications
Location:	7N 15E 16 7N 18E 16, 34, 36 8N 14E 16 9N 14E 22
County:	Wheatland
Trust:	Common

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Triangle Communications has requested an easement strip twenty feet wide, 10 feet on each side of the centerline through above said tracts to install and maintain an underground telecommunication cable

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
Northeastern Land Office (NELO)

Triangle Communications

Surface Lessees: Montana Mexican John Ranch LLC, Ag reserves INC, Taber Ranch LLC, Tim Murnion, John M. Lynn, Two Dot Land and Livestock Co.

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

The DNRC, and NELO have jurisdiction over this proposed project.

The proponent is responsible for acquiring all required permits for the proposed project. The proponent is responsible for settling all surface damages with the surface lessees.

DNRC is not aware of any other agencies with jurisdiction or other permits needed to complete this project

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A (No Action) – Under this alternative, the Department does not grant an easement for an underground telecommunication cable.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action) – Under this alternative, the Department does grant an easement for an underground telecommunication cable.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

7N 15E 16

Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Component name (percent)	Rating reasons	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
403A	Fairway loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, rarely flooded	Slight	Fairway (85%)		10.5	7.5%
			Meadowcreek (7%)			
			Soapcreek (5%)			
			Swampcreek (3%)			
416B	Fairway-Korchea loams, 0 to 4 percent slopes, rarely flooded	Slight	Fairway (45%)		27.9	19.7%
			Korchea (40%)			
			Havre (5%)			
			Richey (2%)			
461B	Varney gravelly loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes, fan	Slight	Varney (85%)		2.2	1.6%
			Sieben (5%)			
			Notter (5%)			
			Ethridge (5%)			
465C	Sieban gravelly loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, fan	Slight	Sieben (85%)		100.6	71.2%
			Sixbeacon (5%)			
			Notter (5%)			
			Varney (5%)			
Totals for Area of Interest					141.3	100.0%

7N18E 16

Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Component name (percent)	Rating reasons	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
57B	Attewan loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Slight	Attewan (75%)		37.7	25.8%
			Scravo (6%)			
			Sieben (6%)			
			Amesha (5%)			
			Varney (4%)			
			Verson (4%)			
116F	Cabbart-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 60 percent slopes				0.9	0.6%
157F	Cabbart, moist-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 60 percent slopes	Severe	Cabbart (65%)	Slope/erodibility	27.2	18.6%
			Twilight (10%)	Slope/erodibility		
			Blacksheep (3%)	Slope/erodibility		
			Delpoint (2%)	Slope/erodibility		
894C	Scravo gravelly loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes				40.9	27.9%
894E	Scravo gravelly loam, 8 to 35 percent slopes				39.7	27.1%
Totals for Area of Interest					146.4	100.0%

7N18E34

Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Component name (percent)	Rating reasons	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
79E	Cabbart-Crago-Delpoint complex, 15 to 35 percent slopes	Moderate	Cabbart (40%)	Slope/erodibility	77.5	35.0%
			Crago (30%)	Slope/erodibility		
			Delpoint (20%)	Slope/erodibility		
			Yamacall (5%)	Slope/erodibility		
			Yawdim (5%)	Slope/erodibility		
95C	Crago-Attewan cobbly loams, 2 to 8 percent slopes	Slight	Crago (50%)		6.5	2.9%
			Attewan (40%)			
			Niart (6%)			
			Musselshell (4%)			
112D	Cabbart-Delpoint, calcareous, loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes				0.6	0.3%
815C	Yamacall loam, calcareous, 4 to 8 percent slopes	Slight	Yamacall (85%)		2.3	1.1%
			Delpoint (5%)			
			Kremlin (5%)			
			Kobase (5%)			
830C	Eapa loam, 4 to 8 percent slopes				1.0	0.4%
893B	Crago-Musselshell complex, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Slight	Crago (50%)		133.4	60.3%
Musselshell (40%)						
Niart (5%)						
Rothiemay (5%)						
Totals for Area of Interest					221.3	100.0%

7N18E36

Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Component name (percent)	Rating reasons	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
36C	Yamacall-Delpoint loams, 2 to 8 percent slopes	Slight	Yamacall (50%)		11.4	41.2%
			Delpoint (40%)			
			Cabbart (5%)			
			Kremlin (3%)			
			Boxwell (2%)			
157F	Cabbart, moist-Rock outcrop complex, 15 to 60 percent slopes	Severe	Cabbart (65%)	Slope/erodibility	0.1	0.3%
			Twilight (10%)	Slope/erodibility		
			Blacksheep (3%)	Slope/erodibility		
			Delpoint (2%)	Slope/erodibility		
844E	Cabbart-Yawdim-Rock outcrop complex, 4 to 35 percent slopes	Moderate	Cabbart (55%)	Slope/erodibility	14.2	51.3%
			Yawdim (30%)	Slope/erodibility		
			Megonot (5%)	Slope/erodibility		
			Delpoint (5%)	Slope/erodibility		
W	Water				2.0	7.2%
Totals for Area of Interest					27.6	100.0%

8N14E16

Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Component name (percent)	Rating reasons	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
424A	Havre-Harlake complex, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Slight	Havre (50%)		4.2	1.8%
			Harlake (35%)			
			Yamacall (5%)			
			Kobase (5%)			
			Clunton (5%)			
429C	Gerdrum-Vanda-Creed complex, 0 to 8 percent slopes, fan	Slight	Gerdrum (40%)		11.8	5.2%
			Vanda (30%)			
			Creed (20%)			
			Ethridge (5%)			
			Nobe (5%)			
461B	Varney gravelly loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes, fan	Slight	Varney (85%)		39.0	17.3%
			Sieben (5%)			
			Notter (5%)			
			Ethridge (5%)			
470B	Verson loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes, fan	Slight	Verson (85%)		33.9	15.0%
			Attewan (5%)			
			Radersburg (5%)			
			Ethridge (5%)			
471C	Kobase silty clay loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes	Slight	Kobase (85%)		36.7	16.3%
			Richey (5%)			
			Rothiemay (5%)			
			Yamacall (5%)			
473C	Kobase-Megonot complex, 0 to 8 percent slopes	Slight	Kobase (50%)		3.5	1.6%
			Megonot (40%)			
			Yawdim (4%)			
			Yamacall (3%)			
			Delpoint (3%)			
474C	Kobase, calcareous-Megonot complex, 0 to 8 percent slopes, fan	Slight	Kobase (50%)		4.8	2.1%
			Megonot (40%)			
			Delpoint (5%)			
			Yawdim (3%)			
			Yamacall (2%)			
475C	Zatoville-Kobar complex, 2 to 8 percent slopes	Slight	Zatoville (50%)		3.0	1.3%
			Kobase (40%)			
			Orinoco (5%)			
			Gerdrum (3%)			
			Richey (2%)			
476B	Ethridge clay loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes, fan	Slight	Ethridge (85%)		51.1	22.6%
			Evanston (5%)			
			Kobase (5%)			
			Verson (5%)			
494C	Crago gravelly loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes, fan	Slight	Crago (85%)		0.3	0.1%
			Binna (5%)			
			Musselshell (5%)			
			Niart (5%)			
494E	Crago gravelly loam, 8 to 35 percent slopes, fan	Moderate	Crago (85%)	Slope/erodibility	5.1	2.3%
			Binna (5%)	Slope/erodibility		
			Musselshell (5%)	Slope/erodibility		
			Niart (5%)	Slope/erodibility		
496A	Crago-Musselshell-Attewan complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes	Slight	Crago (40%)		31.7	14.0%
			Musselshell (30%)			
			Attewan (20%)			
			Marias (5%)			
			Rothiemay (5%)			
W	Water				0.7	0.3%
Totals for Area of Interest					225.8	100.0%

Soils affected by this project are highlighted on the tables. All affected soils are rated slight for off road erosion, with two exceptions. There is one unit that has a moderate rating but the proposed trench will be running in the borrow ditch along a gravel road and within the highway right-of way, therefore no impacts are expected.

One drainage crossing in 7N 18E S16 is ranked as severe for off road erosion. This stretch of disturbance may require fiber wattles or erosion matting and prompt seeding after disturbance due to the steep slopes in the drainage.

No cumulative effects to geology and soil quality, stability and moisture are anticipated.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

Trenching will occur near Deadman's Basin reservoir and the Musselshell river but are not expected to impact water resources.

No cumulative effects to the water resources are anticipated.

6. AIR QUALITY:

What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

The air quality in the area will not be affected.

No cumulative effects to air quality are anticipated.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

The proposed easement route would run through native rangeland on all the proposed tracts. The disturbed area will be limited to the trenching/ripping area. Seeding and reclamation will be required to maintain grass cover on rangeland. If cover hasn't established in two growing seasons the proponent will be responsible for reseeding.

If re-seeding is necessary the proponent will acquire certified, weed free seed and refer to the Plant Materials Tech Note No. MT-46 (Rev. 4) dated September 2013 for seeding rates.

No noxious weeds previously recorded on any tracts but some invasive weeds are present and will need controlled.

No rare plants or cover types are present.

No long term cumulative effects to vegetation are anticipated.

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/mt/plantsanimals/?cid=nrcs144p2_05773

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

The area is not considered critical wildlife habitat. Most of the work is done by adjacent public roads where wildlife habitat quality has already been reduced.

No cumulative effects are anticipated.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

Species of Concern

8 Species

Filtered by the following criteria:

NT Status = Species of Concern

Township = 0675018F (based on mapped Species Occurrences)

MAMMALS (MAMMALIA)										1 SPECIES
NT Status = Species of Concern Township = 0675018F (based on mapped Species Occurrences)										Species Occurrences
SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i> Black-tailed Prairie Dog	Sciuridae Squirrels	G4	S3		Sensitive • Known on Forests (CG)	SENSITIVE	SGCN3	15%	71%	Grasslands
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Big Horn, Blaine, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Fallon, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Treasure Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone										

BIRDS (AVES)										4 SPECIES
NT Status = Species of Concern Township = 0675018F (based on mapped Species Occurrences)										Species Occurrences
SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> Golden Eagle	Accipitridae Hawks / Kites / Eagles	G5	S3	BCLM; MBTA; BCC17		SENSITIVE	SGCN3	3%	100%	Grasslands
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, McCone, Meagher, Mineral, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Sanders, Sherridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone										
<i>Buteo regalis</i> Pernonous Hawk	Accipitridae Hawks / Kites / Eagles	G4	S3B	MBTA; BCC10; BCC17		SENSITIVE	SGCN3	11%	95%	Sagebrush grassland
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Madison, McCone, Meagher, Mineral, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone										
<i>Catharus fuscus</i> Vireo	Turdidae Thrushes	G5	S3B	MBTA		SENSITIVE	SGCN3	6%	100%	Riparian forest
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Granite, Jefferson, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, McCone, Meagher, Mineral, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Powell, Richland, Rosebud, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone										
<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i> Greater Sage-Grouse	Phasianidae Upland Game Birds	G3G4	S7		Sensitive • Known on Forests (BD) Sensitive • Suspected on Forests (CG, HLC)	SENSITIVE	SGCN2	17%	75%	Sagebrush
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Hill, Madison, McCone, Meagher, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone										
<i>Numenius americanus</i> Long-billed Curlew	Scolopacidae Sandpipers	G5	S3B	MBTA; BCC10; BCC17		SENSITIVE	SGCN3	19%	100%	Grasslands
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Madison, McCone, Meagher, Mineral, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Sanders, Sherridan, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone										

REPTILES (REPTILIA)										1 SPECIES
NT Status = Species of Concern Township = 0675018F (based on mapped Species Occurrences)										Species Occurrences
SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
<i>Phrynosoma hernandesi</i> Greater Spiny-tailed Lizard	Phrynosomatidae Sagebrush / Spiny Lizards	G5	S3		Sensitive • Known on Forests (CG) Sensitive • Suspected on Forests (HLC)	SENSITIVE	SGCN3, SGJN	19%	66%	Sandy / gravelly soils
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Dawson, Fergus, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Hill, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Madison, McCone, Meagher, Mineral, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Sanders, Sherridan, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone										

FISH (ACTINOPTERYGII)										1 SPECIES
NT Status = Species of Concern Township = 0675018F (based on mapped Species Occurrences)										Species Occurrences
SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
<i>Chrosomus eos</i> Northern Redbelly Dace	Cyprinidae Minnows	G5	S3				SGCN3	4%	27%	Small prairie rivers
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Blaine, Cascade, Chouteau, Daniels, Dawson, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Hill, Judith Basin, Lewis and Clark, Meagher, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Richland, Rosebud, Sanders, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone										
State Rank Reason: The Northern Redbelly Dace is currently listed as an "S3" species of concern in Montana because they are essentially at risk because of limited and/or declining numbers, range and/or habitat, even though it may be abundant in some areas.										

Species of Concern

13 Species

Filtered by the following criteria:

NT Status = Species of Concern

Township = 0670013F (based on mapped Species Occurrences)

MAMMALS (MAMMALIA)										
SPECIES										
SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i> Black-tailed Prairie Dog	Scuriidae Squirrels	G4	S3		Sensitive - Known on Forests (CG)	SENSITIVE	SGCN3	15%	71%	Grasslands
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Big Horn, Blaine, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Fallon, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Madison, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone										

BIRDS (AVES)										
SPECIES										
SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> Golden Eagle	Accipitridae Hawks / Kites / Eagles	G5	S3	BCEP; MBTA; BCC17		SENSITIVE	SGCN3	3%	100%	Grasslands
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, McCona, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone										
<i>Catharus fuscescens</i> Veery	Turdidae Thrushes	G5	S3B	MBTA		SENSITIVE	SGCN3	6%	100%	Riparian forest
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, McCona, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone										
<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i> Greater Sage-Grouse	Phasianidae Upland Game Birds	G3G4	S2		Sensitive - Known on Forests (RD) Sensitive - Suspected on Forests (CG, HLC)	SENSITIVE	SGCN2	17%	75%	Sagebrush
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Chouteau, Custer, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Gallatin, Garfield, Golden Valley, Hill, Madison, McCona, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone										
<i>Coccothraustes vespertina</i> Evening Grosbeak	Fringillidae Finches	G5	S3	MBTA			SGCN3	3%	100%	Conifer forest
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, McCona, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone										
<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i> Bobolink	Icteridae Blackbirds	G5	S3B	MBTA			SGCN3	9%	100%	Moist grasslands
State Rank Reason: Populations in Montana and across North America have experienced range-wide declines, although the causes of these declines are unclear (Gibson and Harvey 2006).										
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, McCona, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone										
<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i> Pinyon Jay	Corvidae Jays / Crows / Magpies	G5	S3	MBTA; BCC17			SGCN3	5%	55%	Open conifer forest
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Fergus, Gallatin, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Madison, McCona, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone										
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> Loggerhead Shrike	Laniidae Shrikes	G4	S3B	MBTA; BCC10; BCC17		SENSITIVE	SGCN3	4%	100%	Shrubland
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, McCona, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone										
<i>Numenius americanus</i> Long-billed Curlew	Scopaciidae Sandpipers	G5	S3B	MBTA; BCC10; BCC17		SENSITIVE	SGCN3	19%	100%	Grasslands
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, McCona, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone										
<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i> Sage Thrasher	Mimidae Thrashers / Mockingbirds / Catbirds	G4	S3B	MBTA; BCC10; BCC17		SENSITIVE	SGCN3	9%	84%	Sagebrush
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Chouteau, Custer, Fallon, Gallatin, Garfield, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, McCona, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone										
<i>Spizella breweri</i> Brewer's Sparrow	Passerellidae New World Sparrows	G5	S3B	MBTA; BCC10; BCC17		SENSITIVE	SGCN3	12%	100%	Sagebrush
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Chouteau, Custer, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, McCona, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone										
State Rank Reason: Species faces threats from loss of sagebrush habitats as a result of habitat conversion for agriculture and increased frequency of fire as a result of wood mismanagement and drought.										

REPTILES (REPTILIA)										
SPECIES										
SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
<i>Apalone spinifer</i> Spiny Softshell	Trionychidae Softshell Turtles	G5	S3			SENSITIVE	SGCN3	2%	26%	Prairie rivers and larger streams
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Big Horn, Blaine, Carbon, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Dawson, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Stillwater, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone										

FISH (ACTINOPTERYGII)										
SPECIES										
SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
<i>Chrosomus eos</i> Northern Redbelly Dace	Cyprinidae Minnows	G5	S3				SGCN3	4%	27%	Small prairie rivers
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Blaine, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Dawson, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Hill, Judith Basin, Lewis and Clark, Madison, McCona, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Richland, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone										
State Rank Reason: The Northern Redbelly Dace is currently listed as an "S3" species of concern in Montana because they are potentially at risk because of limited and/or declining numbers, range and/or habitat, even though it may be abundant in some areas.										

Species of Concern

10 Species

Filtered by the following criteria:

MT Status = Species of Concern

Threat = OBSERVED (based on reported Species Occurrences)

MAMMALS (MAMMALIA)										2 SPECIES
MT STATUS = SPECIES OF CONCERN										Species Occurrences
SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i> Hoary Bat	Vespertilionidae Bats	G3C4	S3				SGCN3	2%	100%	Riparian and forest
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux, Yellowstone										

BIRDS (AVES)										2 SPECIES
MT STATUS = SPECIES OF CONCERN										Species Occurrences
SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
<i>Ardea herodias</i> Great Blue Heron	Ardeidae Bitterns / Egrets / Herons / Night-Herons	G5	S3	MBTA			SGCN3	3%	100%	Riparian forest
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux, Yellowstone										
State Rank Reason: Small breeding population size, evidence of recent declines, and declining regeneration of riparian cottonwood forests due to altered hydrology and grazing.										
<i>Buteo regalis</i> Ferruginous Hawk	Accipitridae Hawks / Kites / Eagles	G4	S3B	MBTA: BCC10; BCC17		SENSITIVE	SGCN3	11%	95%	Sagebrush grassland
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Madison, Meagher, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux, Yellowstone										
<i>Calcarius ornatus</i> Chasmodon Longspur	Calcariidae Longspurs and Snow Buntings	G5	S2B	MBTA: BCC11; BCC17		SENSITIVE	SGCN2	32%	67%	Grasslands
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Big Horn, Blaine, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Hill, Judith Basin, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Meagher, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux, Yellowstone										
State Rank Reason: Species has a negative short-term population trend and faces threats from loss of native prairie grassland habitats and altered frequency, intensity, and spatial distribution of grazing and fire regimes. It is dependent on.										
<i>Catharus fuscescens</i> Veery	Turdidae Thrushes	G5	S3B	MBTA		SENSITIVE	SGCN3	6%	100%	Riparian forest
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Granite, Jefferson, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Sweet Grass, Teton, Wheatland, Yellowstone										
<i>Charadrius montanus</i> Mountain Plover	Charadriidae Plovers	G3	S2B	MBTA: BCC11; BCC17		SENSITIVE	SGCN2	20%	73%	Grasslands
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Jefferson, Madison, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Rosebud, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland										
<i>Numenius americanus</i> Long-billed Curlew	Scolopacidae Sandpipers	G5	S3B	MBTA: BCC10; BCC11; BCC17		SENSITIVE	SGCN3	19%	100%	Grasslands
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux, Yellowstone										
<i>Rhynchophanes mccownii</i> McCown's Longspur	Calcariidae Longspurs and Snow Buntings	G4	S3B	MBTA: BCC10; BCC11; BCC17		SENSITIVE	SGCN3	41%	79%	Grasslands
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Blaine, Broadwater, Chouteau, Daniels, Fergus, Glacier, Golden Valley, Hill, Judith Basin, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Madison, Meagher, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Rosebud, Rosebud, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone										
State Rank Reason: Species faces threats from cover type conversion and altered grazing and fire regimes, and although populations in the core of their breeding range in northwest Montana appear to be relatively stable, declines are occurring in much of the species' global breeding range.										

FISH (ACTINOPTERYGII)										2 SPECIES
MT STATUS = SPECIES OF CONCERN										Species Occurrences
SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
<i>Chrosomus eos</i> Northern Redbelly Dace	Cyprinidae Minnows	G5	S3				SGCN3	4%	27%	Small prairie rivers
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Blaine, Cascade, Chouteau, Daniels, Dawson, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Hill, Judith Basin, Lewis and Clark, Meagher, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Richland, Rosebud, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux										
State Rank Reason: The Northern Redbelly Dace is currently listed as an "S3" species of concern in Montana because they are potentially at risk because of limited and/or declining numbers, range and/or habitat, even though it may be abundant in some areas.										
<i>Chrosomus eos x Chrosomus neogaeus</i> Northern Redbelly X Finescale Dace	Cyprinidae Minnows	GNA	S3			SENSITIVE	SGCN3		20%	Small prairie streams
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Blaine, Cascade, Chouteau, Fergus, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Meagher, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Stillwater, Teton, Valley, Wheatland										
State Rank Reason: The Northern Redbelly/Finescale Dace hybrid is currently listed as an "S2" species of concern in Montana because they are potentially at risk because of limited and/or declining numbers, range and/or habitat, even though it may be abundant in some areas.										

Species of Concern

5 Species

Filtered by the following criteria:

MT Status = Species of Concern

Township = 062N014E (based on nearest Species Occurrences)

MAMMALS (MAMMALIA)										
5 SPECIES OF CONCERN TOWNSHIP = 062N014E (based on nearest Species Occurrences)										
SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i> Hoary Bat	Vespertilionidae Bats	G3G4	S3				SGCN3	2%	100%	Riparian and forest
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, McCone, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux, Yellowstone										
<i>Myotis lucifugus</i> Little Brown Myotis	Vespertilionidae Bats	G3	S3				SGCN3	3%	100%	Generalist
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, McCone, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux, Yellowstone										

BIRDS (AVES)										
3 SPECIES Species Occurrences										
SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
<i>Catharus fuscescens</i> Veery	Turdidae Thrushes	G5	S3B	MBTA		SENSITIVE	SGCN3	6%	100%	Riparian forest
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Granite, Jefferson, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, McCone, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Ravalli, Richland, Rosebud, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Wheatland, Yellowstone										
<i>Charadrius montanus</i> Mountain Plover	Charadriidae Plovers	G3	S2B	MBTA; BCC11; BCC17		SENSITIVE	SGCN7	20%	73%	Grasslands
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Jefferson, Madison, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Rosebud, Teton, Toole, Treasure Valley, Wheatland										
<i>Numenius americanus</i> Long-billed Curlew	Scolopacidae Sandpipers	G5	S3B	MBTA; BCC10; BCC11; BCC17		SENSITIVE	SGCN3	19%	100%	Grasslands
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Madison, McCone, Meagher, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux, Yellowstone										

Temporary displacement may occur during the installation of the proposed telecommunication cable. No population effect is anticipated.

There are no known unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources on this site.

No cumulative effects to habitat are anticipated.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

A Class I (literature review) level review was conducted by the DNRC staff archaeologist for the area of potential effect (APE). This entailed inspection of project maps, DNRC's sites/site leads database, land use records, General Land Office Survey Plats, and control cards. The Class I search revealed that *Antiquities* have not been identified in the APE. No additional archaeological investigative work will be conducted in response to this proposed development. However, if previously unknown cultural or paleontological materials are identified during project related activities, all work will cease until a professional assessment of such resources can be made.

Stone Circles and cairns have been observed in SWSE1/4 of 9N 14E 22 which will not be affected because the proposed work will be in the NENE1/4. A historic homestead site is present on SWSE1/4 of 7N 15E 16 but the work would be in the SWNW1/4. Finally a historic railroad bed is present in 7N 18E 36 on the S1/2S1/2 but all of the work will be in NWNW1/4. All other sections have had cultural inventories present from previous projects and no cultural or paleontological resources have been done.

No effects on historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources anticipated.

11. AESTHETICS:

Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

No direct or cumulative effects to aesthetics are anticipated.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

No demands on limited resources are required for this project.

No direct or cumulative effects to environmental resources are anticipated.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:

List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

There are no other projects or plans being considered on the tracts listed in this EA Checklist.

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

There will be some health and safety concerns associated with the operation of heavy equipment. The proponent and their employees are aware of any health and safety hazards and accept them as occupational hazards.

Once the installation has been completed, there will be no health and safety concerns associated with this project.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

This project will not add to or deter from other industrial, agricultural, or commercial activities in this area.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:

Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

The project will not create any new jobs. These positions are already held by employees of the proponent. No cumulative effects to the employment market are anticipated.

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:

Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

There are no direct or cumulative effects to taxes or revenue for the proposed project.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

There will not be any increases in traffic or traffic patterns if this project is approved.

There will be no direct or cumulative effects on government services.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:

List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

There are no zoning or other agency management plans affecting this project.

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:

Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

There will be no direct or cumulative effects on recreation or wilderness activities.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:

Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing

The proposed project does not include any changes to housing or developments. Population and housing will not be affected.

No direct or cumulative effects to population or housing are anticipated.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

There are no native, unique or traditional lifestyles or communities in the vicinity that would be impacted by the proposal.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

The proposed project will have no effect on any unique quality of the area.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:

Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

The proposed project will not have any cumulative economic or social effect.

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Alternative B (the Proposed Action) – Under this alternative, the Department does grant an easement for an underground telecommunication cable.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

I have evaluated the potential environment effects and have determined that no negative long-term environmental impacts will result from the proposed activity.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

☐

EIS

☐

More Detailed EA

XXX

No Further Analysis

EA Checklist
Prepared By:

Name: Dustin Lenz

Title: Land Use Specialist

Signature:



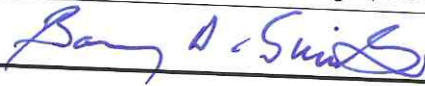
Date: 04/04/2018

EA Checklist
Approved By:

Name: Barny D. Smith

Title: Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office

Signature:



Date: 04/04/2018